

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BACK TO HEALTH MONTH

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday was the first day of "Back to Health Month," a national campaign created to increase awareness of back pain as well as possible causes and prevention. Sponsored by the North American Spine Society, this month is designed to educate Americans about their spine and how they can prevent common back injuries.

The facts of back pain speak for themselves. Did you know that at some point in their lives, more than 80 percent of American adults will experience back pain? Or, that 1 out of 14 adults will visit a physician this year due to back or neck pain, and that back pain is the second most common reason people visit a physician? These statistics demonstrate how important it is to raise awareness about this health problem that affects too many Americans.

One famous American who suffers from back pain is 1993 Major League Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, Reggie Jackson. Jackson was a two-time World Series MVP and Major League Player of the Year in 1973. During his legendary career, Jackson was named to the Major League All-Star team fourteen times. However, last July, like so many other Americans, following a spine injury, Jackson underwent emergency spine surgery and has been undergoing spine rehabilitation ever since.

Another highlight of "Back to Health Month" is an event to distribute information about back pain. "Back to Health Day" on Capitol Hill will be held on April 24th, in the Rayburn Gold Room. "Back to Health Day" will provide an array of educational materials, including guidelines to a healthy back, exercises to strengthen your back, and how to prevent back pain. In addition, representatives from the North American Spine Society will be on hand to discuss commonly asked questions about back pain, causes and prevention. I encourage my colleagues to join us for "Back to Health Day" as we learn the most effective ways to prevent and alleviate back pain.

I commend the North American Spine Society for organizing "Back to Health Month" and for their commitment to ensuring that Americans learn to keep their backs healthy.

TAX TREATMENT OF BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS ISSUED BY THE AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to clarify the tax treatment of bonds and other obligations issued by the American Samoa Government.

Under current federal law, the territories of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have the authority to issue municipal bonds to foster a broad range of economic activity. These bonds are exempt from income taxation by the federal government, state governments, territorial governments, municipal governments, and the government of the District of Columbia. This is known as triple tax exemption. In American Samoa, on the other hand, only industrial development bonds receive triple tax exempt status. The income from all other bonds is subject to taxation by federal, state and municipal governments.

The legislation I am introducing today will give to American Samoa the same authority already held by all other states and territories.

The legislation deletes the current reference to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code which excludes interest on qualifying bonds from income, as that cross reference is not necessary. It is the intent of the legislation, however, that interest on qualifying bonds issued by the Government of American Samoa or any of its agencies be exempt from taxation. As with other jurisdictions, the bonds would not be exempt from federal, state or local gift, estate, inheritance, legacy, succession or other wealth transfer taxes which may at any time be in effect.

The legislation uses new language in describing the bonds to reflect changes made to the Internal Revenue Code in 1986.

Finally, this bill repeals current law on this subject—Section 202 of Public Law 98-454 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1670). Any bonds issued after enactment of the new provision would be subject to the new law; any bonds issued before that date would remain valid and be subject to the current Section 1670 of Title 48.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on April 3, 2001, I was unavoidably detained

and missed Rollcall votes numbered 76 and 77. Rollcall vote 76 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 768, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act. Rollcall vote 77 was on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 91, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the human rights situation in Cuba.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on both H.R. 768 and H. Res. 91.

TRIBUTE TO TOM KRIEGISH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Kriegish upon the occasion of his retirement as Chief of the Electrical Division of the state of Michigan's Bureau of Construction Codes. Tom has spent 35 years to working in the electrical industry and for the past 15 years he has used his vast array of knowledge and training to ensure public confidence in the safety of buildings and structures throughout the state.

Such work is critical to the well-being of citizens all over Michigan and Tom has always approached his job with extraordinary dedication and energy. Tom's work ethic and positive attitude in dealing with management, co-workers and customers have served as a shining example for others to follow. Tom has proved in his years of service that it is possible to exhibit character and professionalism in a job, while simultaneously earning the friendship of those with whom and for whom you work.

Tom's successful efforts in ensuring the electrical safety of Michigan homes and buildings often took him on the road. His time away from home certainly was a sacrifice for his wife, Vicki, and three daughters, Leslie, Sandy and Jill. Michigan residents owe a debt of gratitude both to Tom and his family for an un-failing devotion to duty.

As an electrical inspector, Tom became a legend for his ability to quickly react to a problem and solve it satisfactorily. His responsiveness came in handy during his frequent travels in northern Michigan. Once, Tom, who was known to miss a curve or two on slippery winter roads, found his vehicle heading straight for a dump truck hauling a backhoe. Showing his acumen for swift reaction, Tom regained enough control of his vehicle to bury it in a snowbank. Always faithful to the mission at hand, Tom had plenty of time to reflect on electrical inspections protocol while waiting for a wrecker to arrive.

On a more serious note, Tom has always displayed a willingness to give back to the industry to which he dedicated his life. His active role in the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

including terms as President and Executive Board Chairman, have contributed greatly to the industry and to the general public by developing professionalism and expertise among his peers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deep appreciation to Tom and his family for outstanding service and in wishing them well in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DR. STARZL, A
PIONEER IN ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a great man, one who is truly a living legend. Transplant pioneer Thomas E. Starzl not only performed the world's first liver transplant in 1963 and the first successful series of kidney transplants between nonidentical twins between 1963, and 1964, he has for forty decades continued to make equally extraordinary advancements.

For instance, in 1980, just before coming to the University of Pittsburgh, he developed a combination of drugs that transformed transplantation of the liver and heart from an experimental procedure to an accepted form of treatment for patients with end-stage organ failure and opened the door to pancreas and lung transplantation. In 1989, his development of another drug markedly improved survival rates for all kinds of transplants and made possible for the first time successful transplantation of the small intestine.

The entire field of transplantation has advanced because of his courage, his genius, and his compassion for his patients.

When Pittsburgh welcomed him just 20 years ago, no one had any idea the incredible contributions this man would make to medicine and mankind. Indeed, the city has enjoyed an enhanced reputation because he chose to make the University of Pittsburgh his academic home. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the first liver transplant he performed in Pittsburgh. Since then, surgeons at the University of Pittsburgh and the UPMC Health System have performed nearly 6,000 liver transplants and more than 11,300 transplants of all organs. No other center in the world comes close.

But the impact of Dr. Starzl's work goes far beyond Pittsburgh. Patients throughout the world, even those who have not been under his skillful care, have benefited from his contributions. He has trained numerous surgeons and research scientists. In fact, many, if not most of the world's transplant surgeons and physicians have been trained by Dr. Starzl or by those trained by him. Later this month, many of these former students and colleagues will honor Dr. Starzl at a scientific symposium in his honor, and the University of Pittsburgh will unveil his portrait, which will hang in the School of Medicine with the likes of other great pioneers, including Jonas Salk.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring and thanking one of history's great surgeons, Dr. Thomas Starzl.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JOHN
LITTLE

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander John D. Little who served with distinction and dedication for three years for the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (FM&C) as the Deputy Director in the Appropriations Matters Office.

It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our great Nation as a whole.

During his tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office, which began in April of 1998, Commander Little has provided members of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense as well as our professional and associate staffs with timely and accurate support regarding Navy plans, programs and budget decisions. His valuable contributions have enabled the Defense Subcommittee and the Department of the Navy to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well-trained and well-equipped naval forces attainable for the defense of this nation.

Mr. Speaker, John Little and his wife Marianne have made many sacrifices during his naval career. His distinguished service has exemplified honor, courage and commitment. John's first love is to return to the sea as the Commander of a United States Navy Ship. His dream comes true as later this Spring he assumes command of the U.S.S. *Thorn* (DD-988) and her crew of 330 officers and sailors.

As this great Navy couple and their two daughters Mollie and Frances and their new born son John, Jr. depart the Appropriations Matters Office to embark on yet another Navy adventure in the service of a grateful nation, I call upon my colleagues to wish them both every success and the traditional Navy send-off "fair winds and following seas."

PLUMBING STANDARDS
IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Plumbing Standards Improvement Act of 2001. This bill would begin to restore common sense to our government by repealing the ridiculous Congressional mandates on toilet size and showerhead flow, 1.6 gallons per flush and 2.5 gallons per minute, respectively.

With the help of the U.S. Department of Energy, environmental activist and plumbing manufacturers claimed it was essential to restrict water consumption in toilets and showerheads. Instead of allowing individuals

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to make their own choices, this group claimed the federal government should choose the types of plumbing fixtures Americans can use in their private and public bathrooms. As a result, this group was able to include an obscure rider at the eleventh hour to the Energy Policy Act (EPA), which Congress passed in 1992.

Since passage of the 1992 EPA, the voices in opposition to this policy have become loud and clear. I have heard the cries from across the country and they want the federal government out of their bathrooms. While support for ending these mandates has steadily grown, the importance of this issue has grown even further. Last year the Department of Energy introduced new regulations on washing machines, air conditioners, and heating pumps. The federal government has become too intrusive; regulating people's private lives.

The Plumbing Standards Improvement Act of 2001 does not implement any new restrictions or standards. It simply allows each individual consumer to make choices that best fits their needs. Washington has no business dictating to American consumers on the size of their toilet or the flow of their shower. One-size-fits-all mandates are unfair and a draconian measure to regulate resources. It assumes that every American faces the same situations in their daily lives.

Our failed policy on plumbing fixtures has strangled the market, created innumerable headaches, and put us at risk of suffering further one-size-fits-all mandates. Now is the time to heed the call of suffering Americans, pass the Plumbing Standards Improvement Act of 2001 and restore wisdom to our federal government.

GREAT BASKETBALL IN THE 6TH
DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Durham, North Carolina, is the center of the basketball universe these days as Duke University celebrates its NCAA national men's basketball championship. The Sixth District of North Carolina, however, can also claim to be a basketball hotbed as we celebrate the arrival of two high school basketball champions—and they both reside in the same city. High Point, North Carolina, is the new home of the Girls 2-A state champion High Point Central Bison as well as the Boys 3-A state champion T. Wingate Andrews Red Raiders.

On March 9, the High Point Central girls completed a remarkable basketball season by defeating Eastern Alamance 92-62 to capture the Girls 2-A state title. While the overwhelming victory in the championship game was impressive in itself, it only capped what will be long remembered as one of the greatest high school basketball seasons ever. The Bison completed the season with a perfect record of 30-0. This was High Point Central's first undefeated season since 1993 when the Bison went 31-0 en route to the state 3-A title. Can you mention the word dynasty when you talk about the Bison? Central's championship this year was its second in the last three